Heritage Matters

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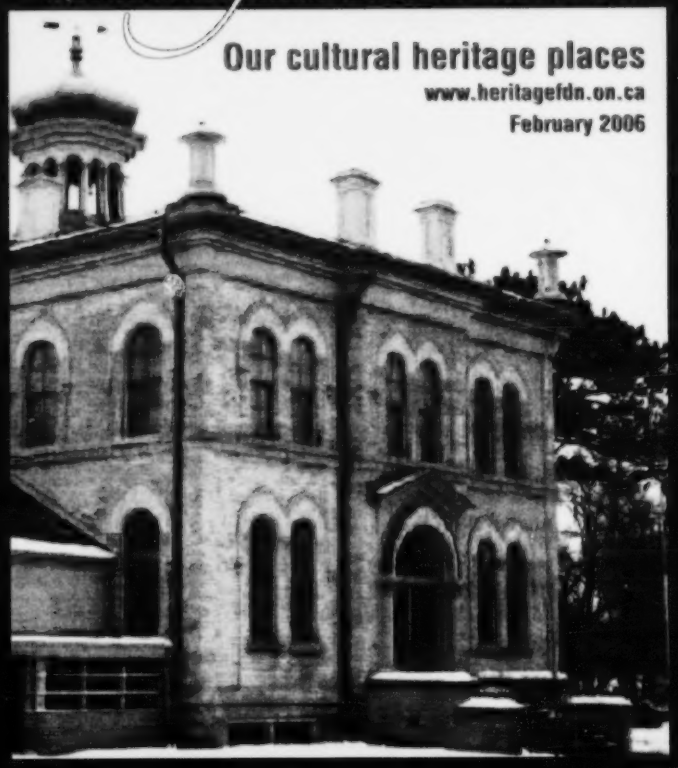

Our cultural heritage places

www.heritagefdn.on.ca

February 2006

In this issue

- Historic scenery makes second debut
- Digging up yesterday
- The birth of Black History Month

Researching and writing about the history of Francophone Ontario.

Michel D'Amours, B.A., M.A.
info@recherchedhistoriques.ca
705-367-2134

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Tel./Fax.: (519) 775-0813

patricia tolmie
editor writer
• experienced, sensitive, meticulous
• special interest in heritage issues
• clients include Ontario Heritage Foundation
416 686-7856

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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Last year, many changes occurred when the *Ontario Heritage Act* was passed. In addition to strengthening regulations to protect Ontario's unique heritage sites, the new legislation also changed the Ontario Heritage Foundation's name to the Ontario Heritage Trust. We remain the province's lead heritage agency, working with a broad range of ministries, stakeholders and partners throughout Ontario to ensure that our shared heritage is preserved and protected. In addition, we have assumed the coordination of Ontario Heritage Week from the Ministry of Culture.

Since 1985 – when the Ontario government launched the program – Heritage Week has been a time to come together and showcase our heritage. We commend the Ministry of Culture for its excellent work over the past 20 years and look forward to developing and expanding this exciting annual event with our partners in the years ahead.

This year's theme – Our Cultural Heritage Places – encourages the celebration of our cultural structures, including: concert halls, opera houses, theatres, First Nations longhouses, community halls, museums and art galleries. I urge you to look at these spaces in your own community. What role have they played in its cultural development? Are they protected and appreciated? Do they continue to be actively used?

This expanded issue of *Heritage Matters* also explores this theme with stories on community museums, heritage conferences, archaeological discoveries, restoring heritage wallpaper and magnificent Vaudeville scenery flats. Black History Month – and much more. Each issue will now bring you even more news about what's happening in heritage both at the Trust and across the province as we work together to identify, protect, preserve and promote Ontario's heritage treasures.

Enjoy!

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Feature Story

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Peel Heritage Complex (Brampton)

Heritage Matters

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For information, contact:
Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 302
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3
Telephone: 416-325-5015
Fax: 416-314-0744
E-mail: marketing@heritagefdn.on.ca
Website: www.heritagefdn.on.ca

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Ontario

Our cultural heritage places

How heritage buildings adapt

By Sean Fraser

Although heritage remains a year-round activity for many of us, Heritage Day is celebrated annually on the third Monday in February. This year's theme speaks to "Our Cultural Heritage Places," with an emphasis on museums, concert halls, libraries and galleries.

Most of these unique spaces continue to operate as they were originally intended. Over time, however – and with careful management – many sites have been adapted to bring new life to their activities while maintaining their heritage fabric.

Conservation easements are covenants between owners of heritage properties and groups such as the Ontario Heritage Trust, municipalities or conservation organizations. These agreements are registered on title in perpetuity and are binding on all future owners. Conservation easements conserve the heritage features of the site – ensuring that these features are preserved, interpreted and well maintained.

Many Ontario Heritage Trust conservation easement sites are operated as museums, galleries, libraries, archives, theatres and concert halls. These sites possess inherent architectural and historical value, making them even more precious to those who visit and work in them. In addition, they heighten the cultural experience offered on the premises. In this article, we'll take a closer look at three cultural heritage places in the Ontario Heritage Trust easement portfolio.

Peel Heritage Complex (Brampton)

Ontario Northern Railway Station (Cobalt)

Built in 1910 for the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, the Cobalt Station is associated with the early development of rail transportation and settlement in Northern Ontario. Designed by prominent Toronto architect John M. Lyle, the station is a long, low brick building with an impressive broad-hipped roof. The interior boasts massive timber roof trusses and a wooden ceiling. Typical of railway stations built during the first part of the 20th century, the station exhibits elements of the Arts and Crafts and Tudor Revival styles. Located along the waterfront in the downtown core, the Cobalt Station is a local landmark. In 1979, the Town of Cobalt designated the station under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and, in 1993, the Ontario Heritage Trust secured a heritage easement that protects the exterior and main heritage interior spaces. This municipally owned building has been adapted to cultural uses and is now home to the Bunker Military Museum, the Cobalt Welcome Centre and the Mining Exhibit.

Ontario Northern Railway Station (Cobalt)

Allan Macpherson House (Greater Napanee)

Allan Macpherson House (Greater Napanee)

This house was built by Allan Macpherson, a leading local businessman, militia leader, magistrate and Napanee's first postmaster. Sir John A. MacDonald, a relation of the Macpherson family, was a frequent guest at the house. The house remained in the Macpherson family until 1896. It was purchased by the Lennox and Addington Historical Society in 1962, restored and opened as a museum in 1967. It continues as a museum today.

The design of this two-storey frame house is a vernacular Georgian form with Neo-Classical features. The interior is arranged around a central hall, also typical of Georgian design. Exterior distinguishing features include an imposing Neo-Classical front and rear entranceway with wide rectangular transoms, wide six-panel doors and pilasters with decorative moulding, and simple window frames with plain dripboard cornices and a twelve-over-twelve window sash. The house is located in a park-like riverside setting on the banks of the Napanee River. In 1977, the Town of Napanee designated the house under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and, in 1982, the Ontario Heritage Trust secured a heritage easement to protect the exterior and restored interiors of the house.

> **The Ontario Heritage Trust holds over 200 easements on a variety of cultural and natural sites throughout Ontario. Easements offer a flexible, effective way for heritage-minded property owners to assure the sympathetic care and preservation of these heritage resources in perpetuity. For more information on conservation easements, contact the Ontario Heritage Trust at 416-325-5000 or visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.**

Peel Heritage Complex (Brampton)

Designed in 1866 by Toronto architect William Kauffman, the Peel County Courthouse is a remarkable Venetian-Gothic landmark in downtown Brampton. Distinguishing features include a rusticated limestone foundation, paired round-headed windows, fanlights and broad decorative eaves. Above the classically inspired pediment is an onion-shaped dome rising above the cupola that is unique to Ontario courthouse design. The cubic limestone jail boasts a hip roof and six large brick chimneys. The Courthouse, Jail and Land Registry were Peel County's judicial and administrative centre from their construction in 1867 until 1973, and continue to embody Peel Region's civic pride. The Region of Peel created the Peel Heritage Complex in 1985 in an effort to save this collection of significant heritage buildings and bring together many of the community's cultural heritage services on one site. As a cultural heritage landmark, the Peel Heritage Complex offers a concert hall in the former Court Room, a regional museum and archives located in the former Jail and an art gallery in the former Land Registry. The Ontario Heritage Trust secured a heritage easement to protect the exteriors of this complex, as well as the interior of the historic courtroom and entry corridor.

These three sites were converted from their original use to suit new public, cultural functions. Not all easement sites have undergone adaptive re-use in the same way, but these examples demonstrate what can be achieved when we work creatively to retain, protect and celebrate our cultural heritage places.

Sean Fraser is the Easement Administrator at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Peel Heritage Complex (Brampton)

After being in storage for over 75 years, a dynamic set of theatre scenery will be displayed again at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre (EWG) in downtown Toronto.

Important conservation work is necessary to return pieces of this unique collection to their place in Canada's cultural history. To make a donation, please complete the form included in this magazine and return it to the Ontario Heritage Trust. Or contact us at 416-325-5000.

HISTORIC SCENERY MAKES SECOND DEBUT

By Simonette Seon-Milette

Head conservator, Janice Passafiume, in dehumidification chamber treating the cockling and rippling of the canvas.

The EWG – built in 1913 as Loew's Yonge Street Theatre – is a National Historic Site owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust. It is the last operating double-decker theatre in the world. The theatres featured vaudeville acts and silent films until 1928 when talking pictures led to the closure of the Winter Garden. The lower theatre then became one of Toronto's most prestigious movie palaces.

After years of neglect, the theatres underwent a $29-million, 2½-year restoration between 1987 and 1989 by the Trust. One of the great surprises during the restoration was the discovery of the world's largest collection of vaudeville scenery – hand-painted cloth flats, drops and curtains dating from 1913-1920s.

The Scarab set, c. 1920s, is a light interior comedy stage setting decorated with bold contrasting colours of black, grey, cream, purple and gold depicting abstracted beetles in Art Nouveau and Deco motifs. The flats were painted on a fine open-weave cotton linen by Marcus Loew Studios (Albert Howard, Scenic Artist) in New York. The flats were decorated with tempera paint consisting of chalk, glue, dry pigment and metallic bronze powder. This particular set consists of 12 individual flats of varying widths, each measuring 18 feet high.

A meticulous and challenging conservation treatment was conducted over several months, beginning in September 2005, by a team of professional conservators and conservation interns. The project was supported by generous donations from individuals and corporations.

The flats were first thoroughly examined to learn more about the paint, materials and artist's working methods. The paint layer and lightweight fabric supporting it were so fragile that any application of moisture or solvent would have changed its appearance. Various intricate methods and materials were used to stabilize the paint. All of the 99 rips in the linen canvas had to be pretreated before they could be rewoven. The slack canvas was supported to prevent the paint from falling away, but first it was treated in a dehumidification chamber to reduce the cockling and rippling of the canvas. All of the paint losses were filled and toned to match the surrounding original in colours that were lightfast, stable and reversible – consistent with conservation principles. The flats are supported from behind with several types of rigid and flexible archival materials.

The Scarab scenery flats were installed in December 2005 and are currently displayed in the cascading lobbies at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre.

Simonette Seon-Milette is the Cultural Collections Coordinator at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

ICOMOS CANADA 2005

By John Blumenson

Until the late 1800s, heritage had been primarily a national, almost insular concern. The concept of international heritage preservation began to be seriously considered in the 1930s, following several key conventions throughout Europe. In 1965, the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was founded. Since then, ICOMOS has significantly raised awareness of international heritage concerns and, more critically, helped save heritage sites globally by inscribing them to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

From September 29 to October 1, 2005, ICOMOS Canada held its 28th Annual General Assembly and Congress in Toronto. In partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust, Ryerson University, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the City of Toronto, the Congress hosted over 100 heritage professionals, academics and students from around the world. This year's theme – The Significance of Setting – coincided with the chosen theme for the ICOMOS International General Assembly in Xi'an, China in November.

A pre-Congress workshop at Fort York provided an energized and creative introduction. Organized by the Ryerson School of Architecture, more than 30 students interpreted the site and designed a visitor centre within the Fort's historic setting. The students' imaginative design concepts were exhibited throughout the Congress, afterward, the exhibit was sent to China for the International General Assembly.

Lectures were also presented at Ryerson University and the Ontario Heritage Centre. Opening remarks were offered by Michel Bonnette – newly elected President of ICOMOS Canada. Ryerson's Architecture Chair George Kapelos then introduced Harvard University Professor Mark Laird who spoke about the "Impacts of Climate Change on Historic Landscapes." The keynote speaker – Meredith Walker from Australia – challenged participants with her presentation of changing heritage settings in Australia. Walker suggested that "place" or location of heritage resources differs greatly from its "setting," the area around the resources that can be defined as the visual catchment area of the heritage resource.

The Ontario Heritage Trust also hosted the inaugural Martin E. Weaver Memorial Fund Lecture – dedicated to Martin Weaver – scholar, lecturer prolific writer, ICOMOS colleague and mentor to many young heritage conservationists. Norman Weiss, Weaver's colleague at Columbia University, gave this lecture.

In 2005, the prestigious Jacques Dalibard Award – named after ICOMOS Canada's founder – was presented to Francois and Renée LeBlanc for their many years of dedicated service to heritage conservation in Canada and internationally. M. Dalibard personally presented the Award to his long-time colleagues.

This year's Congress – November 2-4, 2006 at Carleton University in Ottawa – will build on the imagination and energy generated by this Congress's student participation. The theme will be "Principles and Practice." In autumn 2008, ICOMOS Canada will host the next ICOMOS International Congress in Quebec City on the theme of "Spirit of Place" to coincide with the city's 400th anniversary celebrations.

For more information on ICOMOS, visit www.international.icomos.org

John Blumenson is an author, historian and columnist for the Toronto Star.

WINNING THE BATTLE

By Gordon Pim

There are countless examples across the province of successful restorations of Ontario's treasured heritage sites. Although the challenges are great – funding being the primary hurdle – we are winning the battle.

One such victory is Peterborough's Market Hall – the premier heritage structure in the city. In 1999, the City of Peterborough acquired the building and determined the extent of the restoration required. Proposals were developed and grant applications submitted. A formal request was made to the Ontario Heritage Trust (then the Ontario Heritage Foundation) under the now-expired Heritage Challenge Fund Community Program. A $150,000 grant was awarded to the City of Peterborough for this project and over $475,000 was raised through individual/small business donations, organizations and service clubs, foundations and corporations.

The restoration required at this site was significant. Extensive repairs were necessary to the tower (including the cupola, clock faces, roof, walls and cornice work), windows, masonry and dormers. The large ornamental coat of arms had deteriorated beyond repair and a replica was required.

In addition to new lead-coated copper metal shingles and restoration of the clock faces and hands, paint restoration was a highlight of this project. Samples of paint from the building were taken to the microscopy lab at Trent University where original colours were matched using sophisticated computer technology. The new paint matches authentic colours while protecting the building from the elements more effectively.

Overall, this project lasted nearly three years. Community support for the restoration of Market Hall and the old clock tower was inspiring. The Save the Market Hall fundraising team created posters, T-shirts and brochures to publicize the campaign and raised nearly $170,000 in the first seven months of the drive. Special community benefits were held, including dances, walkathons and theatre productions. Local media interest, too, was significant both in raising funds and awareness, but also chronicling the progress of this important restoration project.

Today, Peterborough's Market Hall remains a vital part of the landscape in this community. The complex now houses ground-floor commercial space with the Market Hall Performing Arts Centre above. Not only was this project successful from a restoration perspective, but it also united the community and validated their efforts by showing to the world the proud heritage that continues to tower above their historic downtown.

Before After

"The restoration of the building has been a major part of the reconstruction of the downtown as a place to be," said Erik Hanson, Heritage Preservation Officer for the City of Peterborough. "It was inconceivable to the townspeople that the building would be lost, and they responded admirably with a campaign that raised nearly half a million dollars for the restoration work. The Market Hall is Peterborough's premiere heritage icon. It centres people in the town and roots them to the place. It is a powerful symbol of our history."

Gordon Pim is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The $5-million Heritage Challenge Fund Community Program was established in 1998 by the Government of Ontario and was administered by the Ontario Heritage Trust. Heritage organizations across the province applied for funds for capital preservation projects and endowment funds. Applicants were required to raise matching dollars. The fund was over-subscribed by April 2001.

A CHAT WITH TVONTARIO

Steve Paikin, Co-Host, *Studio 2*, TVO

Cities and towns across the province are taking new interest in protecting their heritage properties. That's partly because of the new, enhanced *Ontario Heritage Act* giving municipalities and the province more power to preserve and protect our built, cultural and natural treasures. It is also because of the success of Doors Open Ontario, which has enabled communities to celebrate their heritage sites and build civic pride.

TVOntario's *Studio 2* producers took notice of this heightened interest in heritage last year and worked with the Trust to produce a television special on the topic. The one-hour show – hosted by Steve Paikin – featured Richard Moorhouse, Executive Director of the Trust; Pat Malicki, Windsor Region president of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario; and Sandy Smallwood, an OHT Board member and developer of heritage buildings in Ottawa. Topics ranged from the economic value that the preservation of heritage buildings can bring to a community, to the challenges developers face when restoring heritage properties.

The special program also featured video vignettes about Doors Open Ontario sites located in Goderich, Martintown, Belleville, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Tweed, Windsor, Seaforth and Ottawa. TVO producers travelled the province during the summer of 2005 filming these vignettes. Another 10 vignettes will be aired on TVO in the future.

BEHIND THE SCENES: NEARLY 20 YEARS WITH VOLUNTEERS

They have meticulously laboured over 60,000 glass beads to replicate 45 light fixtures. They have conducted more than 30,000 guided tours for tens of thousands of people from around the world, and they have helped to preserve more than 5,000 branches of beech leaves from various wood lots across Ontario. They are the more than 100 volunteers of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre. Since 1987, the EWG volunteers have participated in a multitude of activities.

Volunteers make the annual Halloween Tour at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre a memorable event.

For nearly 20 years, volunteers have contributed thousands of hours by staffing exhibits, raising funds, working at the lobby gift shop and information booth and guiding public tours. They lovingly show the complex at Doors Open Toronto, Heritage Week, Kidsummer and Arts Week events each year. In addition, they develop projects that promote and ensure the ongoing preservation of this unique double-decker theatre complex – the last operating double-decker theatre in the world.

One such initiative, begun in 2001, has turned into an annual event – the Halloween Tour. On October 31, 2005, patrons were treated to two special tours which, in addition to recounting the history and restoration of the complex, also gave details of some of the "ghosts and spirits" that are said to inhabit the building. Part of the tour was conducted by "Sam" – acting as the spirit of a trombone player who allegedly fell to his death more than 70 years ago. Several other "spirits" also appeared that night and visitors experienced some strange happenings. It was another successful event hosted by this group of dedicated volunteers and another example of how the Elgin and Winter Garden Volunteers continue to support this National Historic Site.

Protecting Natural Spaces in Southern Ontario

A bequest from Barbara Elizabeth Jacquith of Caledon forest contains a tributary of the Credit River and an important water recharge area.

On August 3, 2005 the provincial government announced the creation of the Natural Spaces Program, which included a $6-million allocation to the Ontario Heritage Trust for the acquisition and stewardship of provincially significant lands. The announcement was made by Premier Dalton McGuinty, in the presence of The Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources, and The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture.

The Ministry of Natural Resources' Natural Spaces Program is designed to restore natural areas and reduce further loss of greenspace. Reducing loss of greenspace will improve air and water quality, and protect important natural features and wildlife habitat. The Trust will manage the Acquisition and Stewardship Program.

Land acquisition will focus on lands not currently protected from development by other provincial plans or by public ownership. These will include: significant components of natural heritage systems in Southern Ontario; the completion or connection of key trails; source water protection; habitat for species at risk; increased ecological representation in provincial parks and protected areas; and large woodlands or wetlands and associated connecting linkages.

The program was established as a partnership model for the conservation and protection of provincially significant natural systems in Southern Ontario. The properties acquired will be retained as provincial assets, held by the Trust in perpetuity on behalf of the people of Ontario. The stewardship component will provide support to the partner organizations to allow for appropriate public access on newly acquired lands, to encourage public understanding and to ensure stewardship that conserves and promotes natural biodiversity.

The Trust has extensive experience in working with partners to protect and preserve property. Ninety-four per cent of the natural heritage lands it holds in trust are managed in partnership with local and regional groups – conservation authorities, land trusts, municipalities, and trails organizations. These partnerships are critical to the preservation work we all do.

Doors Open: Ontario's Living Heritage Exhibition

Doors Open is Ontario's biggest heritage event where cities, towns and villages across the province are turned into a living exhibition for everyone to enjoy. This grand festival is about seeing, exploring and understanding our built, cultural and natural heritage. By opening the doors to our magnificent places and spaces – including such cultural landmarks as theatres, libraries, museums and galleries – we also open people's eyes and minds to the importance of preserving these great treasures.

It is amazing to see, year after year, how many people take advantage of the Doors Open program to discover and celebrate Ontario's rich and diverse heritage. Over 1.5 million visits have been made to Doors Open Ontario heritage sites since the Trust launched the program in 2002. For the past two years, Doors Open Ontario has also been nominated as one of Ontario's Top 10 Festivals.

The success of Doors Open has been instrumental in raising the profile of heritage and showing the world that Ontarians are passionate about preserving and celebrating their history.

As more people become aware of this heritage festival, it continues to expand its reach. In 2006, 45 events – 13 of which are first-time participants – are taking place across the province. The Doors Open Ontario 2006 season kicks off in Guelph on April 22.

You can order your free Doors Open Ontario 2006 Guide by calling 1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746) in April. This handy guide provides a snapshot of each community event, highlighting some of the participating sites as well as Ontario Heritage Trust properties and plaques located in each participating region. For a detailed list of participating sites, visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca. This website is updated regularly throughout the Doors Open Ontario season.

Doors Open Ontario 2006

Event		Date
April		
Guelph		**April 22**
May		
Hamilton		**May 6-7**
Chatham-Kent	NEW!	**May 13**
Gravenhurst-Muskoka		**May 20-21**
Brockville-Thousand Islands		**May 27**
Orillia		**May 27-28**
Toronto		**May 27-28**
June		
Whitchurch-Stouffville		**June 3**
Ottawa		**June 3-4**
Owen Sound		**June 3-4**
Prince Edward County	NEW!	**June 3-4**
Smiths Falls		**June 4**
Brampton		**June 10-11**
Dryden	NEW!	**June 23-24**
July		
Huron	NEW!	**July 8-9**
Meaford		**July 8-9**
August		
Aurora	NEW!	**August 12**
Markham		**August 26-27**
September		
Belleville		**September 9-10**
Cornwall-Seaway Valley		**September 9-10**
Oxford		**September 9-10**
Kawartha Lakes		**September 10**
Carleton Place	NEW!	**September 16**
Champlain, East Hawkesbury and Hawkesbury	NEW!	**September 16**
Rideau Lakes-Westport	NEW!	**September 16**
Thunder Bay		**September 16**
Waterloo Region		**September 16**
Amherstburg		**September 23**
Brant		**September 23**
King Township	NEW!	**September 23**
Mississauga-Streetsville		**September 23**
Newmarket		**September 23**
Uxbridge	NEW!	**September 23**
London		**September 23-24**
Oshawa		**September 23-24**
Windsor		**September 24**
Peterborough		**September 30**
Stratford and Perth County	NEW!	**September 30**
Collingwood		**September 30-October 1**
October		
Nepean and District		**October 7**
Cobourg		**October 14**
Port Stanley-Sparta	NEW!	**October 14**
Kincardine		**October 14-15**
Niagara (Ontario and New York)		**October 14-15**
North Huron	NEW!	**October 28**

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD

The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ruth Dudley of Dresden to the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Dudley is a retired Health Care Professional. Currently Chair of the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site Advisory Committee, Mrs. Dudley has a strong interest in preserving Ontario's cultural heritage. She is also active in community issues.

Working with the Historic Places Initiative

In 1999, Parks Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage held a series of wide-ranging consultations to determine the best means to protect and celebrate Canada's unique heritage, resulting in the development of a multi-phased program to be administered by the Government of Canada in collaboration with the provincial and territorial governments. The program – the Historic Places Initiative (HPI) – is a federal-provincial-territorial partnership and is now regarded as the most significant conservation-based development in Canada's history.

The first phase of HPI was launched in 2001 when the federal government announced a $24-million investment toward the project. At that time, the four main objectives of the program were: (1) creating a national registry of historic places; (2) instituting a set of standards and guidelines for conservation practice; (3) launching a funding program in support of conservation; and (4) developing federal legislation to protect historic places. The development of the Canadian Register of Historic Places, the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places and the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund address the first three objectives. Development of legislation, however, is still under way.

Ontario's partnership in the program is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture. The Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) has made a commitment to HPI through the nomination of property profiles for the online Canadian Register of Historic Places. Profiles are being composed for the properties held in trust by the OHT and a large percentage of the 195 properties protected by OHT conservation easement agreements. Through this process, the Registry will serve as both an integral tool for heritage research and a portal by which to increase exposure of the Trust and its properties.

Initiative	Canadian Register of Historic Places	Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places	Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund
Format	Online database	Policy document	Grant program
Objective	To provide a comprehensive listing of Canada's formally recognized historic places.	To provide sound, practical guidance for achieving good conservation practices.	To engage taxable Canadian corporations in preserving Canada's heritage properties by rewarding good conservation practice with monetary compensation.
Description	The Register is a searchable online database containing information about Canada's historic places.	The Standards and Guidelines are intended as a benchmark for assessing proposed conservation interventions to promote responsible conservation practices and provide direction on how such practices are to be interpreted and applied.	The Incentive Fund is designed to present financial awards to eligible commercial properties listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. To be eligible for funding, a property must be owned by a taxable corporation, defined as "commercial" and involved in a rehabilitation project.
More information	www.historicplaces.ca	www.historicplaces.ca	www.pc.gc.ca/commercialproperties

DIGGING UP YESTERDAY

By Dena Doroszenko

John and Theresa Reesor live on a property near Bass Lake, Ontario that is protected by an Ontario Heritage Trust natural heritage easement. They lovingly care for this land and are interested in its history. The easement protects a portion of their property – specifically, a wetland area which also has a remnant of the original Old Barrie Road through the south end. The area surrounding Bass Lake is known to contain numerous archaeological sites, so it is not surprising that an Iroquoian site was discovered on the Reesor property in 2001.

In summer 2005, during a routine Trust site visit, John Reesor brought out a find he made while digging near his c. 1840 farmhouse – a remarkably well preserved 17th-century French trade axe (shown here). The term "French trade axe" or "hache de traite" applied to many types of axes traded during the French regime in New France. Iron axes were tools commonly used by aboriginals following contact with Europeans. Based on its weight, markings and measurements, this particular axe can be dated to the 1640s.

This remarkable find is not uncommon. Throughout Ontario, people are digging up yesterday with sometimes surprising, yet always fascinating, results. They may not be as old as a 17th-century axe, but every shard of our past tells us something more about our unique heritage.

Dena Doroszenko is the Ontario Heritage Trust's Archaeologist.

BREAKING NEWS: SAVING OUR FIRST PARLIAMENT

It was announced on December 21, 2005 that the site of Ontario's first parliament buildings in Toronto has been saved. The Ontario Government, in partnership with the City of Toronto – and with the strong support of local heritage groups – has acquired a significant part of the site of Upper Canada's first parliament. The Ontario Heritage Trust has assumed ownership of this portion of the site. The Trust will work with stakeholders – including the federal and Ontario governments, the City of Toronto and community groups – to develop options and strategies for the long-term preservation of the site.

Upper Canada's first parliament buildings.

Artifacts now lying underground mark the site of Ontario's first parliament buildings. The brick buildings built specifically for the legislative assembly in the late 18th century were burnt to the ground by invading American troops during the War of 1812.

"We are delighted to assume the lead role in the preservation of this significant heritage site," said The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust. "It is the birthplace of our systems of courts, land ownership and civil freedoms – democratic traditions that are the very measure of our strength as a province and as a society."

For more information, contact the Ontario Heritage Trust at 416-325-5000.

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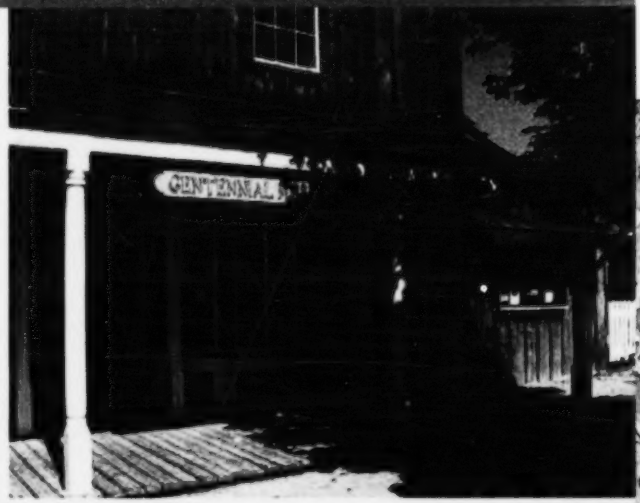
Small-town museums key to small-town success

By Tim Mallon



For 18 years, my wife and I raised our two sons in the Town of Richmond Hill just north of Toronto. When we moved to the small town of Penetanguishene in February 2004, Richmond Hill had approximately 160,000 residents. And, as is sometimes the danger, much of that small-town charm has been subdued or erased entirely by rapid urban sprawl.

Richmond Hill does not have a local history museum and, as a result, lacks the same rich heritage experience that many smaller communities enjoy. Penetanguishene, on the other hand, has become a successful small town because it has a keen sense of its past. And the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives (shown right) has become a focal point for many of the events that bring the town's 8,500 residents together.

Most Canadians are aware of the larger professional museums and galleries that preserve our national heritage. What is exhibited, however, can often seem distant from our lives. But in small towns, local museums hold the collective memory not of our nation, but of our towns. They preserve the personal history of its residents, many of whom donated the unique items that are on display.

Penetanguishene, on the shore of Georgian Bay, was incorporated in 1875 and is considered the oldest town in Ontario. It has a rich history with three founding cultures: First Nations, French and British. Most of the current residents are descendants of those early pioneers. Our museum's manager (Pierre L. Moreau) and curator (Nicole Jackson) are ambassadors for the town, promoting and preserving its past while rallying its citizens to celebrate the present to create tomorrow's history.

While financial support from the three levels of government assists with the acquisition of special exhibits, there are other groups that make small-town museums successful across Ontario. A huge contribution is always made by local families. In our case, the C. Beck Manufacturing Company, operating from 1875 to 1969, had a significant impact on the local and continental lumber industry and the history of the town. The Beck family and company were instrumental in preserving Penetanguishene's unique history by donating their former general store and lumber office as our town's first museum. (The company was honoured in September 2005 with a provincial plaque unveiled by the Ontario Heritage Trust.)

Another key to a successful small town is its volunteer corps. Since 1991, the "Friends of the Museum" have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for our museum and helped run annual community events. As well, our museum's genealogy centre is one of the best in Ontario, thanks to volunteers.

Numerous clubs and organizations also hold meetings and events at our museum. Special exhibits celebrate our past, while current events such as art exhibits and summer concerts promote local anglophone and francophone artists and musicians.

By supporting small-town museums, you help to preserve and promote the past in a more personal way. It is this personal touch that makes the museum a focal point in the town, and a more substantial touchstone to its unique history.

Tim Mallon is the Chair of the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives.

Historic wallpaper: Finding what's beneath

By Romas Bubelis

Wallpapers first appeared in Canada as early as the mid-17th century. These oldest papers were block-printed, hand-painted or stencilled. Pattern and colour was applied to squares of handmade paper that were pasted together to form a larger wall covering.

From 1840 onward, machine roller printing made continuous roll wallpaper increasingly available to both the upper and middle classes.

Detail of reproduced George Brown House central hall wallpaper.

Wallpaper soon became a standard wall finish, integral to the interior decorative scheme of the Ontario dwelling. Wallpaper enabled homeowners to divide walls into base, middle and upper sections of pattern and colour. Borders and fields were used in combination within the same room to accentuate architectural features. Wallpaper styles evolved and it was not unusual for a room to be renewed every five to 10 years using papers of the latest fashion in colour, pattern, backing material and allegorical themes of the day.

While intact 19th-century papered walls are not common in Ontario, period wallpaper samples can often be found in historic buildings – if one knows where to look. The evidence is usually found in concealed locations and places where earlier wallpaper has been covered by later additions: behind switch plates, applied mouldings and built-in cabinetry.

As with all historic buildings, what one often finds is a surprise. During the restoration of the Bethune-Thompson House in Williamstown, exploratory investigations revealed that the original c.1804 "Bethune" walls of the dining room and parlour, complete with their c.1825 block-printed wallpapers, had been covered by secondary walls built by subsequent owner David Thompson. The second walls were too significant to remove, but a glimpse of the oldest surviving paper was provided by wall mounted cabinet doors that open to reveal the original papered surfaces beneath, providing a window on to the past.

In most cases however, surviving scraps of original wallpaper are small and are used primarily to guide decisions about period restoration. The options are one-off custom reproduction papers or the selection of historically appropriate wallpaper from standard period patterns available from manufacturers. At George Brown House in Toronto, a scrap of the original c.1880 wallpaper used by Brown was found on a central hall wall, behind a later decorative mantelpiece. The original pattern was a bold plumed motif in a Rococo-inspired style, executed in metallic bronze ink on a thick embossed paper likely meant to imitate leather. Working with a commercial manufacturer, this historic pattern was accurately transferred and adapted to modern printing techniques.

For the later Art Nouveau-inspired dining room in the same house, an old black and white photograph provided sufficient detail to redraw the pattern, while a tiny scrap of original wallpaper found beneath mahogany trim served as a guide for the colour. These custom reproduced wallpapers for George Brown House were also made available to the general restoration market as a new "heritage" product line of period pattern wallpaper.

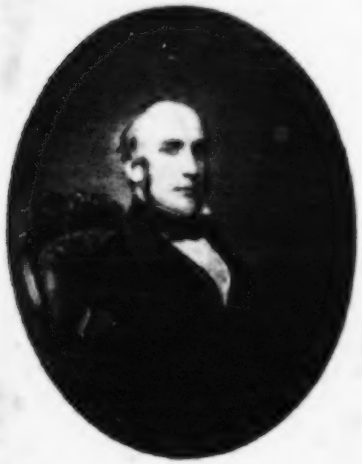
In dealing with historic wallpaper, whether the approach is to conserve, display and interpret samples of historic material or to reproduce and restore period appearance, the starting point is always finding what's beneath.

Romas Bubelis is an Architect with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Snapshots of the past

A flash of phosphorus. A whiff of smoke. And an image is captured. Photographs have chronicled our lives for over 150 years, remaining one of our most enduring testaments to the past.

There is something incredibly nostalgic, even wistful, about looking at a stack of old photographs – whether curling snapshots or mounted studio portraits. Even if we don't know the people, there is a story told



George Brown as a young man.

in their eyes . . . their stance . . . their attire. A wary or haughty look, a stiff or uncomfortable gesture, a blurred pose – every movement reveals something remarkable about the people from our past.

The Ontario Heritage Trust, through its extensive and varied collections, tells many stories of our province's past. Photographic evidence, moreover, shows us people who, in some cases, have only ever lived for us in books. One such man was George Brown, founder of *The Globe* newspaper, champion of anti-slavery and a Father of Confederation.

George Brown (1818-1880) was born and raised in Scotland. Despite early academic achievements, he joined his father's wholesale trade business. Early on, he exercised his family's ardent Liberalism and showed a tendency toward reform and progress. Brown's strong Presbyterian background, too, established in him an ambition to make a difference in the world. Coming from a large family, Brown quickly developed a strong voice and became keenly interested in public speaking. But a financial crisis in London, coupled with personal business losses, brought hard times to the Brown family. And they chose to emigrate to America.

George and his father sailed to New York in April 1837 when George was just 18 years old, leaving his mother and siblings behind in Edinburgh until the following year. It was here that George and his father started writing for a local newspaper, eventually launching a successful journal of their own. With an eye on the recent union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, as well as events in the Church of Scotland back in Edinburgh, the Browns were soon persuaded to re-establish themselves in Canada. In 1843, the Browns moved to Toronto.

After establishing *The Globe* in 1844, with financial support from Reformer friends, Brown found himself becoming more entrenched in the politics of the day. He entered parliament in 1851 and quickly rose to the leadership of the powerful Reform or Liberal party of Upper Canada. He also played a central role in the Abolitionist movement, co-founding the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada in 1851.

During this hectic time, Brown's health suffered and he decided, in 1862, to take a much-needed convalescent holiday in Britain. It was during this holiday that Brown met Anne Nelson – an intelligent and refined woman with whom he fell deeply in love. The couple was married in November after a brief courtship.

The Ontario Heritage Trust holds over 20,000 cultural artifacts in its collections – including photographs, furniture and porcelain. These photographs of George Brown and his wife are part of our rich photographic heritage. From prints and albumens to tintypes and daguerreotypes, glimpses of Ontario's past have been captured and preserved for us all to enjoy. For more information on George Brown, his house or the Trust's collections, visit:
www.heritagefdn.on.ca.

After returning to Toronto, Brown was ready for the increased political pressures and consultations that resulted in the Confederation of Canada. *The British North America Act* was passed in March 1867 in London, England – with many resolutions drafted by Brown himself. Political changes and competing business interests – as well as devotion to his growing family – took Brown out of the political spotlight. Yet he remained an active Liberal party supporter, personally and through his newspaper. In 1874, Brown was appointed as a senator.

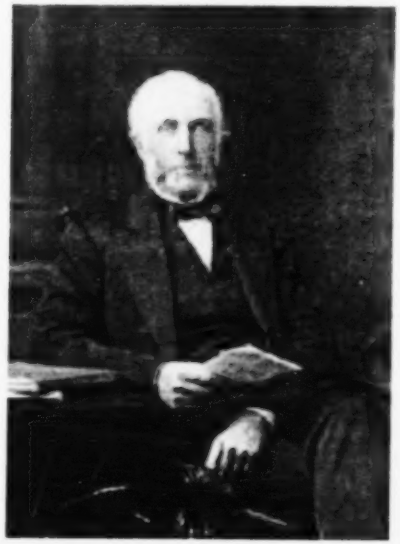
It was during a holiday in England that Brown met Anne Nelson – an intelligent and refined woman with whom he fell deeply in love. The couple was married in November after a brief courtship.

From 1875, Brown spent increasing time between his house on Baldwin Street in Toronto and his estate at Bow Park near Brantford. There, a neighbour's son – Alexander Graham Bell – invited Brown to become a partner in the "sound telegraphy" system Bell had invented. Brown, however, was dissuaded from joining this business venture.

On March 25, 1880 at *The Globe* offices, an employee dismissed for drunken behaviour shot Brown in the leg. The wound became infected and ultimately took Brown's life on May 9. He died, surrounded by family, at his Toronto home (Lambton Lodge) at the age of 61.

Despite his many accomplishments, Brown remained humble and devoted to his family. His refusal of the lieutenant-governorship in 1874 and a knighthood in 1879 added to his distinction. Following his death, Anne Brown and their children returned to Scotland. Lambton Lodge had various lives over the years – from private dwelling to school for the blind – and was declared a National Historic Site in 1976. In 1989, the Ontario Heritage Trust restored George Brown House and reopened it as a conference facility and offices. The Victorian Library was recreated in the House by Parks Canada – complete with 2,000 books from George Brown's personal collection.

Many of George Brown's accomplishments survive. Fortunately, too, a photographic trail exists. And as he confidently addresses the camera lens, you get a better sense of the measure of the man.

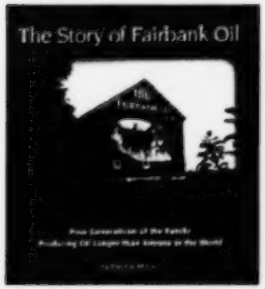


George Brown, founder of *The Globe* newspaper, champion of anti-slavery and a Father of Confederation.

Gordon Pim is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

. . . the shelf

The Story of Fairbank Oil – by Patricia McGee
From Browns Graphics and Printing Inc. Oil defines today's civilization. It ignites our economies in a thousand ways and it is so critical that nations wage war to get it. As an industry, oil exploded into a global juggernaut. It's so enormous that it's almost impossible to



believe that it began in Oil Springs, Ontario not quite 150 years ago. Through it all, the Fairbank family has pumped oil in the same place using the same technology.

This galloping tale is peppered with the colourful accomplishments of the four generations of Fairbank men who witnessed, recorded and made history. It opens with John Henry Fairbank and how he became Canada's biggest oil producer, built the biggest mansion in Lambton County and owned the largest hardware store west of Toronto. Three times the oil property and the hardware store have passed from father to son and the businesses survive, even thrive to this day. But more than a tale, this story also details how the unique technology has allowed Fairbank Oil to continue to ship its crude to Imperial Oil for more than 120 years.

Strengthening Ontario's Heritage. © Queen's Printer for Ontario 2005. The Ontario government is helping communities across the province preserve and protect their local heritage with the release of *Strengthening Ontario's Heritage: An introductory guide to identifying, protecting and promoting your community's heritage*. The first of several products being developed to respond to the need for additional resource materials, this free 38-page publication will be distributed to provincial heritage stakeholders, including: municipalities, municipal heritage committees, provincial heritage organizations and community museums. The general public can access the guide online at the Ministry's website (www.culture.gov.on.ca) or through Publications Ontario (1-800-668-9938).

. . . at the gallery

***DAVID MILNE WATERCOLOURS – PAINTING TOWARD THE LIGHT.* February 25 to May 21, 2006 at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.**

David Milne (1882-1953) has long been recognized as one of Canada's foremost painters. While Milne painted in oil and used colour drypoint techniques with incredible skill, his watercolours are arguably his most stunning works. Bringing together more than 70 large sheets, the exhibition will position Milne as a leading figure in 20th-century watercolour. Showing the influence of European Post-Impressionists and his American contemporaries at points in his career, Milne was also inspired by the Transcendentalism of the American philosopher Henry David Thoreau. This AGO-organized exhibition will return home to Toronto after appearing at the British Museum, London, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario. Lead Sponsor: BMO Financial Group. Generously supported by Gretchen and Donald Ross.

Reflections, Bishop's Pond, August 22, 1930. W.S. 5.201.112. Watercolour over graphite on wove paper (watermark: "J Whatman"). 38.4 x 56.1 cm. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Gift from the J.S. McLean Collection, Toronto, 1969, donated by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, 1988 (L69.45).

The Birth of Black History Month

By Karolyn Smardz Frost

Ontario's Black History Month began in the United States as "Negro History Week." This American celebration of black history and culture was initiated in 1926 at a time when black Americans lived with the daily insult of segregation and the danger posed by the widespread lynchings inspired by the Ku Klux Klan.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden is owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust. The property containing Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site is part of 200 acres of land purchased in 1841 to establish the Dawn Settlement – a refuge for the many fugitives from slavery who escaped to Canada from the United States. It remains an important part of Ontario's black history.

The creation of Negro History Week was part of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's (1875-1950) lifelong campaign to gain national recognition for the role African Americans played in building the United States. The son of former slaves, Woodson toiled in the Kentucky coal mines through his teenage years. He returned to high school and graduated at the age of 22 before entering university. With a master's degree from the University of Chicago and a doctorate from Harvard, he went on to teach at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Woodson, an inspiring teacher and mentor, established the American Association for the Study of Negro Life and Culture (AASNLC) in 1915. The organization – now known as the American Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and Culture – remains the leading organization in its field. In 1916, the AASNLC launched the *Journal of Negro History*. This journal was influential in the US and Canada and remained the major avenue for African-Canadian scholarly publication through the middle of the 20th century. Today, it continues to play a vital role in informing our American neighbours of Canada's place in the African Diaspora.

Negro History Week began in the United States on February 12, 1926. Originally held on the second week of February because it contained the birth dates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, it was expanded to a month-long commemoration in 1976 as part of America's bicentennial celebrations. February contains a series of important dates in black history, including the birth of WEB DuBois and the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. February is Black History Month in the US, Canada and Jamaica. In the United Kingdom, black history is celebrated annually in October.

In Canada, Negro History Week was first celebrated in Toronto in the 1950s through the efforts of the Canadian Negro Women's Association. The City of Toronto officially recognized it in 1976 in recognition of the work of the Ontario Black History Society. The Society then lobbied for the celebration to be expanded into Black History Month. In 1979, the Ontario government gave the month-long celebration provincial recognition. The Honourable Jean Augustine (then-MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore and the first female African-Canadian MP) introduced a motion in the House of Commons to make Black History Month a national event. On December 14, 1995, her motion was unanimously adopted. Today, school curricula, exhibits, television and media events, as well as numerous public ceremonies, commemorate the crucial role people of the African Diaspora have played in the making of Canada.

Karolyn Smardz Frost, PhD, is a historian, archaeologist and heritage educator. Her latest book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land*, will be available in May 2006.

Visit Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden

Learn more about this important black heritage site. Take an informative tour of the period buildings, explore the interpretive centre and find a unique treasure in the gift shop. Special tours arranged throughout the year.

For more information, call **519-683-2978** or visit **www.heritagefdn.on.ca.**

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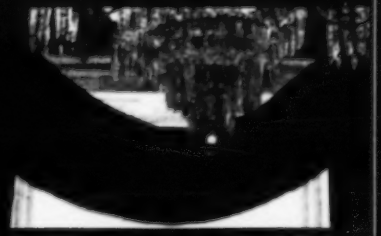

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Spadina House is owned by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Heritage Trust, and is operated by the City of Toronto.